

Wildlife Advisory Committee

675 East 500 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

January 22, 2014
10:30 a.m.

Minutes of January 22, 2014

Committee:

Lavonne Garrison (Non-voting)
Tom Bachtell
Casey Snider
Byron Bateman

Tim Donaldson
Ashley Green
Miles Hanberg
Cody Stewart

Others in Attendance:

Gene Ciarus, Grand County
Ron Barton, SITLA
Aaron Garrett, State Office of Education
Karen Rupp, State Office of Education
Paul Callahan, Burns & McDonnell
David Applegate, Anadarko Petroleum
Scott Bugosh, Anadarko Petroleum
Tom Marranzino, Anadarko Petroleum

Susan White, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
Tim Peterson, Grand Canyon Trust
Kim Christy, SITLA
Scott Chamberlain, SITLA
Jim Davis, SITLA
Ron Carlson, SITLA
Nannette Johnson, SITLA

Introduction of Committee Members

LaVonne Garrison, welcomed everyone. Committee members provided a personal introduction.

Discussion of Responsibilities Under the Committee Charter

LaVonne Garrison briefly mentioned the objectives of the committee based on the charter. Maps were provided in the handouts to show the area of focus for the committee. Ms. Garrison reviewed the outline for meeting structure in the future.

- The committee will meet every six months or more often, as needed.
- Committee discussions may lead to recommendations on habitat for big game animals
- Recommendations will be presented to the Administration and the Board. The recommendation should include differences of opinion presented in meetings.
- The Administration will present recommendations to the Board as appropriate, before notifying Anadarko.
- Anadarko will be an integral part of discussions, while not part of the committee.
- Draft minutes will be available but will not be final until approved at the next meeting.
- There is a sunset date of December 31, 2018. If necessary, the date can be extended.

Status of Deer and Elk Herds Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)

Miles Hanberg, Division of Wildlife Resources, provided an overview in a PowerPoint presentation. The full presentation is available at: [<http://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>]. He defined three sub-units in the Book Cliff area:

- Bitter Creek
- Little Creek
- South Book Cliffs

The majority of the Anadarko lease units lie within the Little Creek sub-unit.

Little Creek Sub-unit

- Also known as “The Roadless Area”
- The Little Creek Sub-Unit is approximately 57,970 acres
- SITLA and UDWR are the major landowners
- UDWR leases grazing on SITLA lands
- Contains UDWR’s Little Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) at 6,950 acres
- Habitat for many species including mule deer, elk, bison, Colorado River cutthroat trout, black bear, and cougar
- Very popular hunting area and recreation area

Tom Bachtell asked for clarification on watershed areas asking if the water flows north to the Green River in this location. Mr. Hanberg confirmed the areas in red on the map are watershed areas where the water flows north to the Green River.

Cody Stewart asked if the land was acquired piece-by-piece for a specific purpose. Mr. Hanberg reported the land was acquired as an entire ranch in 1994. Parcels were acquired together.

Book Cliffs Elk Habitat

- UDWR assigns a value to elk habitat in the State of Utah (e.g. crucial or substantial)
- Elk habitat is further defined as its season of use (e.g. winter, summer, year-long)
- The majority of the Book Cliffs WMU is elk habitat, with different season classification and values
- This map shows crucial winter, summer, and year-long habitat for elk

The map shows crucial habitat areas.

Little Creek Elk Habitat

- The Little Creek Sub-Unit and both the “One Eye Canyon” and “Bogart Canyon” units are classified as crucial elk summer range
- Within summer range areas, elk have their calves during the months of May, June, and July. This includes the first few weeks after birth until calves are able to travel with the herd
- UDWR recommends avoidance of disturbing activities on crucial summer ranges from May 15th-July 15th

Book Cliffs Elk Distribution and Migration

- Elk spend summer months in limited summer range in the Book Cliffs.
- Use areas are often associated with upper elevation and aspen habitats.
- Elk typically travel north to spend the winter, however elk only move as conditions force them.

Little Creek Elk Distribution and Migration

- Elk spend summer months in the upper “Roadless Area”
- Use areas are often associated with upper elevation and aspen habitats.
- Elk typically travel north and west to Tribal lands to spend winter months.

Tom Bachtell asked if DWR considers these studies to be for two separate herds. Mr. Hanberg reported the distribution and migration reports are for two herds.

Book Cliffs Mule Deer Habitat

- This map display shows crucial winter and crucial summer range.
- Book Cliffs mule deer are traditional in their migration and winter areas. Deer migrate each year to their winter ranges in the first week of October regardless of snow or other conditions.
- Most Book Cliffs deer migrate north however, some migrate south.
- UDWR recommends the same avoidance periods for deer and elk.

Little Creek Mule Deer Habitat

- Little Creek is classified as crucial summer range.
- Deer spend the summer in upper elevations often associated with aspen vegetation type
- Fawning occurs between May 15th to July 15th
- Deer typically begin leaving the Little Creek area the first week of October
- Little Creek deer migrate both north and south

Habitat Projects and Work

- Rattle Fire burned 87,380 acres in 2002, a large portion of the Little Creek area
- UDWR and SITLA collaborated to reseed 19,200 acres.

Colorado River Cutthroat Habitat and Distribution

- CRCT have been restored to over 75 miles of stream in the Roadless Area
- UDWR used rotenone to remove hybrid cutthroat trout and brook trout in 2003-2004
- UDWR stocked CRCT in West Willow and upper She Canyon
- Fish have established throughout West Willow Creek and She Creek, as well as portions of East Willow Creek
- CRCT populations will expand as habitat conditions improve from Diamond Creek Fire

Mr. Hanberg discussed the research is for the Book Cliff area and it is not broken down for each canyon in the Book Cliff area. He showed a chart and indicated elk population objective around 7,500 and the current population ranges around 4,000. The Book Cliffs are considered stable even though they are below the objective. He also reviewed the permits and demand, which he summarized to say they do not change much.

Casey Snider asked why the trend did not seem to change. Mr. Hanberg contributed the consistency to the drier range and speculated that other factors also contribute to low populations.

Tim Donaldson asked who set the 7,500 objective and when it was set. Mr. Hanberg said the Utah Wildlife Board set the goal back in 1990s based on factors like federal AUMs. Mr. Donaldson asked if the count illustrated by the flat line would track back to the 90s to illustrate the same numbers. Mr. Hanberg said the population may have been a bit less in the early 90s but has not changed much and is considered stable.

Scott Chamberlain asked if the elk migrating to Tribal lands are included in the migration charts. Mr. Hanberg said the Tribe conducts a survey as well. The numbers on Tribal lands are in addition to the population represented in the slides but do not count toward the population goal.

LaVonne Garrison noted the elk seem to cluster at the southeast end of trust lands. She asked if that is because there are no surveys on federal land. Mr. Hanberg indicated the animals return to the areas they have been before, which may account for the clustering of the data on the chart.

Permit and Demand for Elk Permits

- Permits average 300 each year with 4,000 applications
- Little Creek has its own hunt with 75 permits and limited entry with approximately 1,000 applications
- Both hunts are limited

Tim Donaldson asked how permits are issued. Permits are issued through a DWR drawing process. There are some conservation permits available and some are given to Sportsman groups to sell for money that is returned for conservation projects.

Byron Bateman mentioned there is a high demand on the permits and some sell for as much as \$15,000, which shows the level of interest and the quality of the elk in the area.

Mr. Bachtell asked about the hunter success rate. Mr. Hanberg did not have the data but hunts are most often successful. The experience is popular for those who prefer a horseback experience.

Kim Christy asked for more explanation of how the drawing for a tag works. The bulk of the tags are distributed through the public drawing. However, on the limited entry units there are one or two additional conservation tags that are given to sportsman's groups to auction off and raise money for conservation programs.

Mr. Bateman pointed out the number of conservation tags given out for auction cannot exceed five percent of the available permits for the public.

Mr. Donaldson asked about the cost for the drawing tags. Mr. Hanberg said the tags are \$280 for residents. Utah has a point system where the more years you enter the drawing, the more points you get and it increases your odds of getting a tag over time.

Tom Bachtell asked if there were counts available for the out-of-state applications. Mr. Hanberg reported they do track the out of state applications but he did not know the numbers off the top of his head. Byron Bateman indicated approximately 10% of tags are set aside for non-residents.

Miles Hanberg discussed differences to say the deer hunts are not divided the same way as the elk hunt. Instead, there is one hunt for most of the Book Cliffs. The objective is to have 15,000 deer in the area. Right now, the mule deer population is around 8,000. This count is a slight decline from previous years, yet the herd is considered stable.

Permits for mule deer are steady right around 500 permits and application are around 8,000. Trophy-quality deer drive the demand in the Book Cliffs. Byron Bateman discussed a plan that was reviewed last year resulting in a change for the deer area to be split in to a north and south hunt starting this year.

Tom Bachtell asked if deer and elk compete for habitat. Mr. Hanberg indicated that is a question asked all over the west. He did not feel there was notable competition in the Book Cliffs.

Tim Donaldson expressed concern with the use of the phrase "roadless" area. The legal term of art has implications and the political buzzwords "roadless" implies wilderness that trust land are not eligible. The process by which federal lands are designated wilderness is controversial and difficult. Given the effort the state is making on the federal level with RS2477, to assert legally the rights in those roads to access energy and that sort of thing. Mr. Donaldson asked if using the term "roadless" to describe the area was something that could be talked about.

Mile Hanberg responded to say the term is used for the purpose of the presentation. The location is commonly known as a road less area by the public. The purpose is to give people a context commonly known with sportsman groups.

Casey Snider responded to say it is indicative to use the term rather than substance. The DWR working closely with SITLA has limited access with motorized vehicles. There are still roads in the area it is just a matter of description.

Mr. Donaldson expressed concern that another state agency describes the school kids' land as road less when it is factually questionable and has legal realization that words have consequences.

Tom Bachtell asked Mr. Donaldson what he thought the school kids want to call the area. Mr. Donaldson responded, "The Big Money Maker."

LaVonne referred to the map handouts to point out the area in the Book Cliffs that is not currently leased by Anadarko and the areas that will become SITLA land at the completion of the Recreation Exchange.

Ms. Garrison introduced Scott Chamberlain as SITLA Range Manager responsible for all activities in the area. He has worked closely with Miles Hanberg and both understand the area well. Kim Christy was also introduced as Deputy Director and Manager for the staff working on surface projects conducted in the Book Cliff area.

Introduction of Anadarko - General Discussion of Timeline and Activities

Scott Bugosh is the Geology and Geophysics Manager for Anadarko's Utah asset. He is responsible for subsurface interpretations, location of development wells, gas wells, natural buttes, and exploratory wells throughout the state. He introduced Dave Applegate the regulatory representative currently working out of Casper and representing the Rockies. He then introduced Tom Marranzino, a Mineral Land Representative at Anadarko who has worked closely with SITLA to bring this deal together.

Anadarko's mission is to provide a competitive and sustainable rate of return to shareholders by exploring for, acquiring, and developing oil and natural gas resources vital to the world's health and welfare.

- ❖ Integrity and Trust
- ❖ Servant Leadership
- ❖ People and Passion
- ❖ Commercial Focus
- ❖ Open Communication

Mr. Bugosh's presentation continued with a full PowerPoint presentation available at the SITLA Website [<http://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>].

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

- One of the World's Largest Independent Oil and Natural Gas Exploration and Production Companies
- Total Assets of More Than \$52 Billion at Year-End 2012
- 5,300+ Employees Worldwide
- Invests between \$7.2 - \$7.6 billion in 2013
- Produced ~730,000 BOE per day - enough to meet the daily energy demands of ~24MM avg American homes

Anadarko takes pride in the diversity of the organization along with the culture of safety and environmental protection. On three occasions, Anadarko received the Earth Day Award from the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.

Anadarko's efforts to minimize the impact on the environment are accomplished with advance exploration and planning.

- "Recognizing those who surpass what is required by regulation to protect and restore Utah's environment while developing essential natural resources."
- Leading Industry Initiatives

- FracFocus.org
- Water Pipeline and Management
- University of Texas Emissions Study
- Expanding CNG Fleet and Infrastructure
- Recognized for Best Practices
- Anadarko has been recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency for its voluntary efforts to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Greater Natural Buttes (GNB) Environmental Impact Study (EIS) as an example
- Industry averaging ~9 yrs and GNB EIS was 4.5 yrs to Record of Decision
- How?
 - Have a “great” story to tell - cost effective solutions that reduce environmental impacts
 - Establish realistic, but challenging schedules
 - Outreach to stakeholders - NGOs, Surface Owners, Mineral Owners, Government Agencies, etc.
 - Recognize what stakeholders value and work toward common solutions
 - Build effective relationships with conservation community – (field tours, hikes, and rafting)
 - Proactively work with EPA
 - Early community dialogue

The timeline for the exploration and well production through 2018 has a potential delivery date in late 2017 and 2018. Scott Bugosh reported there are three wells in the Three Pines area where seismic tests will begin in 2015.

Tom Bachtell asked if tests would be vertical or horizontal, to which Mr. Bugosh reported horizontal wells with 3D seismic.

Mr. Bateman asked about how Anadarko will go about conducting the seismic tests in One Eye Canyon. Mr. Bugosh reported that a representative would come to the Wildlife Advisory Committee to present the plan and the process. Seismic is generally low impact. Briefly stated there will be a small explosive charge placed in the earth and the hole will be refilled with cuttings. Mr. Bugosh indicated Anadarko is ready to provide a six-month notice according to the charter for seismic testing in One Eye Canyon. He asked if the committee could convene in February to have a conversation as soon as possible.

Byron Bateman pointed out the archery-hunting season begins the 3rd Saturday in August and leads into the rifle hunt, which goes through October. The constituents would not want the seismic to conflict with the limited-entry hunting season. Another critical time is fawning season. Scott Bugosh will plan to provide notice as soon as possible.

LaVonne asked what size the drilling pads are with an understanding Anadarko does not yet know how many legs they will drill. The initial pad size will be approximately six to seven acres. After operations begin, the pad reduces to one acre, maybe less.

Susan White asked about spacing for horizontal drilling wondering if it is one per site. Mr. Bugosh indicated it could vary depending on what they find in the subsurface. Anadarko may have one-sixty spacing and four wells per section. He also pointed out you can drill in several direction from one well site. They want to have the smallest disturbance possible.

Tom Bachtell asked about the longest known horizontal drill. Mr. Bugosh said the world's longest is about six miles and it extends under the ocean.

Mr. Bateman asked if the product would be removed by truck or pipeline. The preferred method will be pipeline but it is early to say for sure. The infrastructure is in place and is important to production and exploration. Gas is already being produced to the north.

Casey Snider asked what flexibility Anadarko has in actual placement of the seismic and the wells. Mr. Bugosh indicates there is flexibility. The rugged terrain will be challenging but an area with several acres will be targeted.

Discussion of Next Meeting Date

Following a discussion, the next meeting was set for February 25 at 10:30 a.m. at the SITLA offices. Notice will be posted to the Public Meeting Website [<https://secure.utah.gov/pmn-admin/login.html>] and the SITLA Website [<http://trustlands.utah.gov/home/index.html>].

Casey Snider made a request for a site visit with Anadarko, later in the year. The site visit will be discussed further at a future meeting when the weather is better for a visit.

Draft minutes of the meeting will be posted following review by the committee. Approval by the committee will take place at the next meeting.

Audience Questions and Answers

Susan White, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, asked if SITLA managed the sub-surface where the map is illustrated in blue. Ms. Garrison explained that the hatched-blue legend on the map indicates SITLA has the mineral interest. The plain blue indicates surface ownership only. Ms. White asked if the surrounding areas are lease locations and if there was mixed ownership in those areas. Ms. Garrison provided an explanation of the areas included in the agreement with Anadarko and the private and federal indications for ownership in surrounding areas.

Gene Ciarus, Grand County reported there is a road agreement in the works that runs along the west side of Bogart Canyon. The road may provide access to both a gas line and possibly a highway to Uintah near Sego Canyon. Council Member Ciarus pointed out on the map where Sego Canyon is located.

Next Meeting: February 25, 2014, at 10:30 a.m.